

Appl. No. : 09/318,073
Filed : May 25, 1999

REMARKS

In the October 20, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,432,734 to Kawano, et al. ("Kawano"), and allows Claims 2-22.

Priority Claim

Applicants are concurrently sending a Request for a Corrected Filing Receipt to the Office of Initial Patent Examination (OIPE). While reviewing the file, Applicants noticed that the Filing Receipt had not been updated to reflect the deletion of the priority claim made in a preliminary amendment with mailing date of December 1, 1999, OIPE stamp date of December 6, 1999, and with Technology Center 2800 stamp of December 7, 1999. The present application is not a Continuation in Part (CIP) application of U.S. Application No. 08/993,009, filed on December 18, 1997, which is now U.S. Patent No. 5,956,267, issued September 21, 1999.

Allowed and Allowable Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing Claims 2-22.

Amendment to the Specification

Applicants have amended the specification to add a statement regarding government rights.

Discussion of Rejection of Claim 1

The Examiner rejects Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Kawano. Without acquiescing to the Examiner's rejection, Applicants have cancelled Claim 1 herein without prejudice to speed issuance of the allowed claims. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the cancelled claim in a continuation application.

Amendment to the Claim 17

Applicants have amended Claim 17 to delete "field sensitive" for consistency with a previous amendment to Claim 16, from which Claim 17 depends.

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Summary

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-22 are in condition for allowance, and Applicants further request the Examiner to pass the present application to the issue process. If there is any impediment to the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney of record at the number set forth below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: Nov. 15, 2004

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